## NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, EDITOR AND PROPRIESOR

DEPLOTE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING. ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street.—Italian Opera-

MINLO'S GARDEN, Broadway .- MACRETE. WINTER GARDEN, Broadway, opposite Bond street.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery - Spating & Rogen's WALLAUK'S THEATRE, Broadway. - MODERN HIPS LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, No. 20 Broadway.

NEW BOWERY THEATER, Bowery .- POTNAM-WAR-RARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway. - Day and Evening Boss Elmen-Astro Children-Living Customings. 40.

BRYANTS' MINSTREES, Mochanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.-HOGLEY & CAMPBELL'S MINSTREES, Miblo's Sale

CANTERBURY MURIO HALL, 663 Broadway. - Songe, Darces, Scillesques, &c. OCOPER INSTITUTE- BET J. C. FLETCHER'S LECTOR

## New York. Monday, December 3, 1860.

Our despatches from Washington given this morning are of a highly important character. During the whole of vesterday the greatest excitement prevailed, and many of the most extravagant rumors were current. A plan, which appeared to find favor, had been proposed, to refer that portion of the Message of the President discussing the secession movement to a committee of one from each of the different States, to be appointed by the delegations thereof, who shall have full charge of the subfect, and report within thirty days an amendment to the constitution which shall settle all present and future difficulties. This, it was thought, would give time for reflection and friendly conference. Mr. Cobb resigned his position as Secretary of the Treasury on Saturday, to take effect on Wednesday next. This, it was believed, would be followed by the resignation of the Georgia Senators and Representatives. The South Carolina delegation were all in Washington yesterday, but had not determised whether they would take their seats. During the day several consultations were held between Northern and Southern members, and con servative men were of opinion that some plan would be adopted to prevent the disruption of the Union. The President's Message will not be sent in until Tacaday. Its tone is said to be calm and conclliatory, but firm and clear.

In our despatches from Washington this morning will be found a synopsis of the annual reports of the departments, so far as they have been com-

The California Overland Pony Express, with ad vices from San Francisco to November 21, passed Fort Kearny vesterday morning at four o'clock. it was conceded that Lincoln had carried the State by 700 to 1,000 plurality. In Oregon his? majority over Breckinridge was 318. Douglas being lowest of all. Great anxiety existed in California for intelligence from the Eastern States. Accounts from Lower California state that the band of filibuster. who had been committing depredations there had been driven out, and the country was quiet. The steamer Golden Age left San Francisco on the 21st ult., with five hundred and twenty passengers, and \$1,078,713 in specie for New York.

On Saturday night, off Barnegat, in the snow storm, the schooner Shark, Captain Patterson, from Galveston to New York, came into collision with the schooner Ship Carpenters, Captain Fountain, loaded with coal, from Delaware to Providence which went down immediately. By the humans and active exertions of Captain Patterson, Captain Fountain, his crew and his wife were rescued and conveyed to this city; but, unfortunately, his child, two years old, was lost. Mrs. Fountain had a very narrow escape.

Rev. William A. Bartlett, of Brooklyn, delivered an eloquent sermon in the Brooklyn Tabernacle last evening. He argued strongly against the course taken by the abolitionists, viewing them in the light of violators of the law, and belonging to the class of beings who would rather rule in hell than dwell n heaven. He expressed himself opposed to those she would break up or do anything tending to lestroy this great Christian confederacy because it night contain some imperfections, and allotted to hem the position of men who would reject the sun and his light because there were a few dark spots on his disc, and the moon and her soft rays because she showed some features on her surface not quite so bright as the rest. He stated slavery to be the dragon or heathenish god of the country at the present time, from the menner in which it has been introduced into the pulpit and mixed with Christi-

A sermon was preached last evening at Shiloh church, by the Rev. Henry Garnett, on the subject of the death of John Brown, yesterday being, as they stated, "the anniversary of his martyrdom." The service was opened by the Rev. Mr. Ambrose (white), who also offered up prayer, and the Rev. Mr. Constantine (also white) read the 58th chapter of Isaiah. The preacher was more than usually excited in his remarks, at one time causing a slight attempt at applause, which was repeated, and neveral times eliciting hearty tittering. The church was filled to overflowing-more than half the con gregation being white. The Rev. Mr. Prime (colored) delivered the benediction. Our report is

unavoidably crowded out. The regular mos hiy meeting of the City Trac Missionary Society was held last evening at the South Baptist church, in Twenty-fifth street. Mr. A. R. Whitmore presided on the occasion. The missionaries from the different wards gave interest tog accounts of their labors during the month and the results attending them. The Rev. Mr. Burlingham, the pastor of the church, delivered the usual address, and was listened to by a very attentive but not very numerous audience.

The report of Judge Gould's sentence on Mulligan will be found in another column. The Board of Aldermen will not meet until

Wednesday evening.

The prosecution against J. Egbert Farnham piracy, in his well known connection with the slave pacht Wanderer, has been discontinued, and a smallest of our apprehensions. Let us hope,

nolle pres. entered in the United States Court in the district of Savannah, Ga.

The sales of cotton on Saturday embraced about 1,200 was irregular, and closed nominal, at previous quotations The correctness of the tolegraphic despatch announcing a heavy decline in New Orleans was doubted by some persons. Spinners being the chief operators in this marke probably teo ted to sastain prices better than would other-have been the case. Exporters also have, during the week, taken a fair amount for shipment at about 1/2, to 9-23d per lb. freight. Flour was heavy, and common and Western grades were lower, while sales were to a moderate extent. Wheat was heavy and fell off about two cents per bushel. Corn was heavy and rather cheaper, while sales were fair. Fork was beavy at \$16 76 for mess, and at \$11 for prime. Sugars were comparatively quiet, and sales confined to small lots of Cubas, with about 600 boxes. Coffee was dull, with a tendency to lower rates. Freights were steady, with rather more offering for shipment. Among the engage-ments were flour to Liverpool at 3s. 84. a 2s. 64.; over at 11%d. in bulk, and wheat, in ship's bags, at 12%d. To London about 30,000 business of wheat were taken, in bulk, at 12%d. a 13%d., and 14,000 in ship's bags at 14d.

The Meeting of Congress To-Day-State of the Country-Union or Disunion.

The last session of the Thirty sixth Congress begins to-day. It is constitutionally limited to some ninety days duration, and yet its proceedings for Union or disunion, for good or evil, may affect the destinies of the American people for generations to come. All eyes from every quarter of the confederacy are turned to Washington, for the universal impression is that the President and Congress can, if they will, and probably will, do something that may operate to save the Union, and to restore harmony between the North and the South.

For some days past the newspaper reporters at Washington have been representing Mr. Buchanan as exceedingly perplexed in reference to the opinion of his annual Message upon the question of the right of a sovereign State to the sovereign right of secession. But our des patches of last evening inform us that the President will be conciliatory but firm; and we presume that, after recognizing the existing perils of disunion, he will appeal to the wisdom and patriotism of Congress to provide a reme dy, if possible, for the menacing sectional dis cords and excitements of the day. It was said that the delay in the preparation of the Message was to prevent a rupture of the Cabinet, but it appears that Mr. Cobb has resigned his place as Secretary of the Treasury.

It is intimated that the President will recommend a new compromise between the couflicting slaveholding and non slaveholding sections of the Union through a revision of the federal constitution. Upon this subject the constitution itself provides, that "the Congress whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this constitution, or, on the application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a convention for proposing amend ments, which, in either case, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as part of this constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed

Here it will be seen that Congress has no power to call a constitutional convention until application shall have been made for it by twothirds of the States; and that Congress can only propose to the States amendments to the constitution through a vote of two-thirds of both houses. Can this vote be secured in this Congress upon propositions to amend the constitution on the subject of slavery that will be satisfactory to the South? No. What then The two houses may pass resolutions recommending State action on the subject, and the rapeel of all obnoxious Northern State laws against the Fagitive Slave act; they may also provide additional safeguards to slave property; they may restore the Missouri compromise line, and extend it to the Pacific Ocean; but the questions still recur, can these things, in this Congressbe done? Or, if done, will they suffice to arrest a dissolution of the Union?

Assuming that these proceedings, or others of a conciliatory character, may prevent the destruction of the confederacy, they can only be effective from immediate action thereon. The South Carolina State Convention on the secession issue meets on the 17th December, and as early as the 18th it is expected that the proposed ordinance will be passed declaring the State an independent Power to all intents and purposes. After the passage of this ordinance, we fear that it will be easier for South Carolina to draw all the other Southern States to her side than to restore South Carolina to the Union. The secession of that State, then, be ing the immediate and paramount difficulty. what is the course that patriotism would sur

gest to Congress to ward off this danger? A little delay, a little time from South Caro line for reflection, is the first necessity. But how is it to be gained? We can think of no better plan to secure this point than the appointment of a joint committee of the two houses of Congress, representing every other State in the Union, to repair to Columbia, South Caroline for the purpose of a conference with a committee of said State Convention on the day of its meeting, and in behalf of a recognition of the Union yet a little longer. This peace committee itself might possibly fail; but the tremendous interests at stake, of all the people of all the States, are certainly worth this experiment of self-preservation. The plan agreed upon yesterday in Washington was to stave off debate in the House on the President's Message and refer it at once to a special committee of thirty three, one from each State, in order to reach a settlement of the question before it is too late for the South to recede.

In the face of this great peril of disunion, it would be here a waste of time to consider the probabilities, in this Congress, of the admission of Kansas, of the passage of the Homestead bill. of Pacific road bills, tariffs or anything else in the ordinary routine of legislation. Even the regular appropriations for the standing necessities of the government be come a secondary issue at a crisis like this; and it is possible that the session may terminate without the usual bills of supplies to carry on the machinery of the several departments. In this event, one of the first demands upon the incoming administration will be an extra session of Congress, calling for special elections in most of the Southern States. a proceeding which, however imperatively required, would only increase our existing sec-

tional embarrasements. We are in the midst of clouds and darkness, from which we can discover no encouraging line of escape. Nor is the fear of violent personal collisions and scenes of revolutionary discord in our federal halls of legislation the

at all events, that all parties, sections and factions of this belligerent Congress will reassemble fully impressed with the duty and policy of forbearance and conciliation, and, peradventure, from this overshadowing tree of danger we may still gather the flowers and the fruit of safety and peace, and partake of them again together, North and South, in union and harmony.

The Great Loue of the Day-How are We

The solution of the great question, paramount over all others at the present momentthe perpetuity or dissolution of the confederacy- commences to-day in the federal capi tal, and one of the greatest misfortunes at the present crisis is the paucity of able statesmen. gifted with wisdom and acumen, to meet the issue with that firmness, moderation and foresight which it demands; for there would seem to be not one real statesman in Congress, not one equal to the task of grappling with this gigantic difficulty, and mastering it.

The momentous issue now to be met is that of the rights of the South and secession of the Southern States.

The constitution guarantees to the South the right of holding slaves as property, and confirms its right to remove that property into other States and Territories; it gives the South equal rights with the North in the public demain, and promises to protect it in the enjoyment of all these rights under the ægis of the most solemn compact ever entered into between man and man. The dominant party of the North, which has just elected a President, who received only one third of the popular vote, denies three rights, and ignores the pledges of the constitution. Ten or eleven of the Northern States have passed "Personal Liberty bills" which nullify the Fugitive Slave law-enacted in compliance with those guarantees of protection which the constitution gives and they thus effect a practical dissolution of the compact. Under the spirit which dictated these unconstitutional enactments over 60,000 slaves have from time to time been seduced from the Southern States, the value of which is upwards of sixty millions of dollare. There are now not much less than 40,000 fugitive slaves in Canada, and about 2,000 scattered over the Northern States, which represent over forty millions of the property of the South. It is true that many of the more conservative republicans are in favor of the repeal of these laws, but the leaders of the party are opposed to any such conciliatory compromise, and the only attempt made to repeal one of these obnoxious statutes has just failed in the Legislature of Vermont. So much for this aggressive spirit antagonistic to the rights and interests of the South so far as fugitive slaves are concerned.

Now, in regard to the rights of the Southern States to the public domain, how stands the question ?

All the leading politicians of the republican party-Seward, Chase, Trumbull, Sumner, Wil son and Doolittle-in their speeches and letters and convergations since the election, have declared emphatically that the success of Mr. Lincoln is the great public verdict against any more extension of slave territory. If it is, what becomes of the right of the fifteen Southern States to the public lands, upon every acre of which they have an equal claim with the eighteen Northern States which elected Lincoln? If their property upon that domain is not to receive the protection which the constitution fully and absolutely guarantees to it throughout the entire territory of the United States, of what avail is that instrument at all, and what becomes of the compact which it confirmed and ratified? According to the report of the Land Office, the whole territory of the United Sister contains 3 250,000 square miles, of which 2 250,000 is composed of public land—the property equally of the whole people, North and South-or fourteen hundred millions of acres; being more than two-thirds of the entire geographical extent of the country, and almost three times as large as the United States were at the adoption of the constitution. Is the election of Mr. Lincoln by one-third of the voters of the Union to deprive the people of the South of their right to this magnificent domain, which it virtually would do if it inaugurates the policy of no more slave territory !

Thus, even with the reneal of the "Persona Liberty bills," the question would not be settled, because they form only one part of the impending crists. The South requires new guarantees for the protection of its interests and the maintenance of its rights, and any one who supposes that its most conservative leaders would accept any other terms for a continuance of the Union misconcoives their sentiment and their language. In all the public meetings held at the South. whether by Union men or secessionists, the same policy is declared in regard to their rights. Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, in his great Union speech, which is so much praised throughout the entire country for its moderation and conservatism and Governor Magoffin, of Kentucky, whose let ter is viewed in the same light, take the ground absolutely and distinctly that the South must have new guarantees ; that the Personal Liberty bills must be repealed by the State Legislatures or set aside by Congress; that the right of the South in the Territories and the public domain must be recognized, or the North and the South must separate. It is a mistake to suppose that these gentlemen - conservative and moderate as they are are for Union under all discumstances They are conditional Union men only. If the Personal Liberty bills are repealed, and the rights of the South are recognized and protected in the Territories and the public domain, they are for Union; if not, they are for secession as much as South Carolina is. Either new guar antees must be given or the North and South must separate; that is the alternative, and it is well to understand it. Mr. Stephens says so, Governor Magoffin says so, all the Union reso intions, speeches and letters emanating from the South eay to.

With five States already ripe for secession and the whole South united in favor of separation, unless the abolition agitation at the North is stopped and the rights of the South guaranteed, it is clear that the issue must be met at

When this country was composed of British colonies the grievances of the people compelled a revolution and a separa tion from England. When the thirteen origi nal States undertook to carry on the government under "Articles of Confedera tion," the difficulties that surrounded them compelled the adoption of the existing constitution, which was a compromise of the conflicting interests of the day. Now new

difficulties have arisen, as complicated as those which beset the infancy of the confederacy, and he only way to meet them is by a Nationa Convention and a new compromise. Congress should at once recommend to the several State to apply for a National Convention, so that Con gress may be able to call one together according to the provisions of the constitution. Meantime the two bouses should adopt every available measure within their province, manifesting a derire to heal all these disturbances in a manner eatisfactory to the South, and to restore harmony between the two conflicting sections of the country; and according to our despatches received last night from Washington, there appears to be a determination to grapple the question at the threshold and amend the constitution. There seems to be no other way left now to meet the vital issue before us.

Douglas and Pierce Saving the Union .- In these s'rapge and eventful times, in which no one can foresee what a day may bring forth. one of the most curious of the startling political phenomens of the hour is the spectacle of Doug las and Pierce saving the Union which they have both done so much to destroy. Douglas in a speech at Washington on Saturday evening, displayed extraordinary solicitude about the fate of the Union, and "urged all Union men, all constitution-loving men, to sink their bick erings and unite to save the country first, and quarrel, if they pleased, afte:wards."

This is excellent, coming from the man who is the father of the repeal of the Missouri com promise—a measure which has operated like the opening of Pandora's box-and whose persistence in continuing a caudidate of the democratic party at Charleston and Baltimore, in opposition to the declared wishes of the representatives of the fifteen Southern States, with those of Oregon and California, led to the breaking up of the Convention and of the party, which has resulted in the triumph of Lincoln and the consequent peril and danger" to the Union, which Mr. Douglas is at last enabled to discover, in common with Horace Greeley and Thurlow Weed To the very last moment Mr. Douglas refused to enter into any combination with "the Union and constitution loving men" against the common toe, and he would not "sink his bicker ings or unite to save the country first and quarrel afterwards." He is now wise almost

And poor Pierce, in a private letter to friend in Washington, which found its way into one of the papers of that city on the same day on which Senator Douglas made his speech to a party of serenaders, waxes eloquent upon "the fearful crisis which is now upon us," and which he says "he foresaw for years," and "deprecated the causes which he knew must produce it." The prime cause of "the fearful crisis" was the administration measure of the repeal of the Missouri compromise, introduced by Mr. Douglas in the Senate in 1854, under the auspices of Pierce, to obtain a renomination, which became a trap for the South, and which gave birth to the republican party and led to all the troubles in Kansas. by which the republican party were built up At that time the anti-slavery element was dormant, and the abolitionists were regarded as a andful of insane fanatics, while the secessionist and disunion element in all the Southern States was in a small minority. The compromis measures of 1850-settled by the great statesmen of the confederacy, including Webster and Clayhad given peace to the country, and had put a quietus upon the disturbing anti-alavery agitation. Upon the basis of this settlement, poor Pierce, because he was too obscure to be known. was elected in 1852 by an overwhelming maority over one of our great historic men; but hardly did he become warm in his nest at the White House when he became the instrument in the hands of the fire eating secessionists at the South in his ambitious efforts to obtain a made in 1850.

The two men, therefore, who are of all others most responsible for the creation and success of the republican party, and for the disruption of the United States which is imminent, are Douglas and Pierce, both Northern men, who are now making such unavailing efforts at the numps after scuttling the ship.

ELECTION OF SCHOOL OFFICERS .- Our citizens hould bear in mind that they will be called spen to morrow to vote for School Commission ers, Inspectors and Trustees, who are to have charge of the educational department of our city government for the coming year-really the most important interests of our city. The several party cliques have brought out their candidatessome goed, some indifferent-out of which they will be called upon to choose. As with the candidates for our municipal legislature, we trust that our citizens will pay no regard to the numerous attempts that are being made to induce them to vote for these candidates upon party issues, but will carefully scrutinize the several candidates, and select from the long list of names presented such as are known to be good men and qualified to take charge of this impor-

tant branch of our government. The education of the youth in a city like New York is a matter that should be guarded with a jealous eye by the voters and taxpay ers. It is a question that goes home to every inhabitant of the metropolis, and is worthy of their most careful consideration. We trust that the voters throughout the city, when they go to the polls to-norrow, will look upon the subject as it deserves, and select candidates with as much care as a merchant would inquire into the qualifications and specialities of a confidential clerk. No person will discharge his duty to coming generations without taking special care in the choice of school officers. The interest of humanity, the prosperity of our city, depend, more than is generally supposed, upon the character of those who control the educational interests of the city. See to it that none but good men are selected.

The United States frigate Cougress, Capt Gooldsborough, was at Rio Janeiro on the Hist of October.

The United States frigate Cougress, Capt Gooldsborough, was at Rio Janeiro on the Hist of October.

The United States steam sloop-of war Brookly, Capt Waiter, from Chiriqui, arrived here early yeneriar morning and anothered of the Naval Hospital, when she exchanged the customers galue with the receiving stary inney value. The Brookly has no board the Chiriqui Sarvying Commissioners. The Brooklyn has been in commission twenty three mostles, and will probably be pail of here. The fullowing is a correct list of her efficers—Cap ais Win. S. Waker, commanding, Lieutomate Washington Gwathmay, A. N. Smith, W. N. Hiters, Wm. Mitchell, R. T. Chapman, H. A. Adams; Surgeon, Jas McCle land; Onief Engineer, J. Folks show; Porser, Thou. H. Looker, First Lieutemann Marines, G. R. Graham; Assistant Surgeon, T. W. Lanch; Parted Michilismon, F. M. Bucce, J. W. Kedy, T. B. Mills, A. R. Yanei, G. R. Chapman, C. C. Gatanoin; Parmanter's Berk, Forbes Parcer, Pirst Arsistant Engineer, W. R. Tooker, Scoond Assistant Systeers, M. P. Jordan, G. B. N. Tower, J. W. Whitaker, Phayer, Beatswain, J. K. Bartlett, Gunner, T. R. Wilson, Lampetter, Dable Jones, Sallmaker, Francis Brown—Nortota Herald, Nov. 20.

MEETING OF CONGRESS.

INTERESTING FROM WASHINGTON.

Summery of the Annual Reports from the Departments.

THE WORK BEFORE CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Dec 2, 1860. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

calthy state of affairs in that important arm of our go veryment. Its operations and movements during the past year have been a series of successes. The various empaigns against the unfriendly and hostile Indians have proved, in every instance, entirely successful and mos of the warlike tribes have been brought to subjection. Daring last year great reduction in the expenditures have been made, amounting to several millions of dollars.

The Secretary will, it is said, recommend breech-loadin guns for general use in the service; also the important commendation of last your of restoring to the War Department the superintendence and control of the intions. Experience shows that the Interior Department eacht not to have anything to do with the Indiana

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY. The Secretary of the Navy's report will be exceedingly interesting. He will undoubtedly report the recom mendations of the Board who recently reported to him upon the subject of the construction of sailing vossels into war steamers, and also for a further increase of steamships of war. It is obvious that the present naval force is inadequate to protect American citisens and sivence our commercial interests in various quarters of the world. The appropriations required for this depart ment will not exceed eleven millions of dollars.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior, which covers an extensive field, larger in fact than any other three departments of the government, having under its jurisdiction the Gereral land Office. The Indian, Patent, Pension and Census Bureaus, will be very interesting, and exhibit a flourishing condition of affairs in all its ram!

The Cenans office has now a cierical force of one hun dred and twenty seven, all of whom are actively employ ed in their respective duties. The expense of the eighth cersus will exceed that of the seventh considerably owing to the augmentation of population and the various ranches of industry.

The Superintendent is of opinion that he will be ena bled, during the appreaching session of Congress, not only to report the apportionment in the Thirty-eighth Congress, but to present to that body the population of the several States and Territories, classified by sex and condition, and to report the various products of agriculture and the aggregate of manufactures.

It has been suggested to Scoretary Thompson by several Senators to urge upon Congress the establishment of a statistical bureau. Congress and, in fact, the government, are without any general reliable source of accertelament of our internal trade and the annual productions of agriculture, manufactures, &c.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPORT. cature of interest. Since Postmaster Holt has had charge of that department he has made many changes and re duced its expenses several million dollars.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury is not yet

THE WORK BEFORE CONGRESS.

The Secession Movement-The Result of the Presi dential Election-The Tariff-Pacific Rail-road-The Acquisition of Cuba-Admission of Kansas-Organization of New Ter-ritories-Polygamy in Utah-The Franking Privilege-The Mile-age of Members-The Investigating Committees,

United States, which opens in the Capitol of Washington at noon to day, the 34 of Desember, will probably take rank in history as the most important and exciting resaion that has yet been held. There are some appre saions, indeed, that it will also be the last. Whether it be so or not will depend upon the consect that may prevail there, upon the moderation with which the peo-ple North and South will act in the present alarming ori-sis, and upon the course which the executive arm of the povernment may pureue in causing the constitution and obeyed throughout the entire length and breadth of the

The first seesion of this Congress was characterized by scenes of turbulance and excitement such as had never before taken place in the legislative halls of the nation The House of Representatives was divided into two nos-tile camps, the object of their struggle being the Sprakerthip. For more han two months the business of the country was entirely neglected and sacrificed, the poli-ticians being only intent on the election of their respective andidates. This strugglo ended to the setting as the respective nominees of the various parties, and in the which it aroused and inflamed died not with the esttlement of the question. They continued to increase in intensity and to spread from the halls of Congress all through the nation at large, until now, by the election of a sectional candidate to the Pre idency, the North and South find themselves arrayed in an attitude of deadly hostility towards each other of the Southern States, foremost among which stands South Carolina, are taking measures for the avowed pur pose of dissolving their connection with the confederacy for it is with these States as with the heavenly bodies in

Let but one planet from its orb be huried, Planets and suns rush lawless through the world. If one State or commently, or maninpality, be allowed to proclaim and maintain its political independence of the Union of States, whether it be South Carolina or Delaoken in the chain, and there is no longer any bond to hold together the rea. The governmental edifice, erect stely tumble to pieces and anarchy reign sugreme

How is this to be prevented? That is the first question on which the Corgress of the nation will be called upon to pass. It will be presented in the President's annual message. It is understood that Mr. Buchanan, while recommending coactilation, will avoid taking any dec ded stand against the right of scornion. He believes, how-ever, with Mr. Madison, that the constitution has been occepted by all the States "forever," and " without condition." and with General Jacksof, that there can be "armed seconica is treason," which must be put down by the executive power of the aution. fares of his Cabinet advisers-Mesers Cobb, Floyd and Phomp con-are reported to entertain views differing sensewh from those of the President, if not on the constitutions question of the right of secretion, at innet upon the win dom and expediency of resorting to force to prevent a State directing its connection with the Union natter, however, will puse from af nic istrative to logis lative coupsels. Congress will thus be made the supreme tributal for deciding both questions—that of the abstract recroing recount States into observance of their able fact that so have now no statemen to our estional councie, that our system of partisen politics tes produced only dwarfed and stoated carrowiness of teamen, and the magnitude of the inexes will counter

belance the intellectual listleness of the triors, and the e) or of the obvilined world will be directed to the federal Capitol, intently watching the progress of the great cause to which is existence of the republic is at claim. We do hope that the men who have been henored with seals in the Secate and House of Representatives will rise for the occasion above the level of their ordinary meanners, will realize the awful responsibility devolving upon them, and will, without reference to State or party lines, render such a verdict as will dispet the darkoning clouds and

restore confidence in the perpetuity of the Union.
It is not unlikely that the debate on this ques extend from the opening of the session over the Christman holidays, unless, ladeed, some definite movement on the part of discontented States may rouder an earlier deever, that, until this question be disposed of and set at pres of legislation being attended to.

DECLARATION OF THE RESULT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL Before parting from this subject it might be proper at this point to refer to the formality prescribed by the

constitution of having the votes of the electors of the several States for President and Vice President counted s said that an objection is to be raised on account of some informality in regard to the electoral vote of Georgia. In that State Presidential electors must have majorities of the whole vote cast, whereas in other States simple piu-ralities are sufficient. With Douglas, Breckinridge and Bell tickets voted for, it so happened that none of them received a majority. The State law provides that in the event of such a contingency the Logislature shall presoribe the mode of proceeding. That mode may be by appointment. But then, by a law of Congress of 1845 it is provided that all the States shall yote for electors on the rame day. The phrase "vote for" is equivalent, in the sense in which it is used, to the word "choose" The meaning is that electors shall be chosen in all the States on the same day. If it were not so, some one or more States might hold back, and having ascertained how all the others had gone, constitute themselves the arbitors of the question. The constitution itself requires that the day on which electors shall give their votes shall be the same throughout the United States. That day is fixed vote of the State he not given on the day prescribed, i expect be given at all. Thus Georgia would have no voice whatever in the election. To be sure the fault would be her own, and besides, her vote would have no effect on the issue. But then the circumstance may be seized held of for the purpose of producing a diffinity in the convention of the two houses. Four yours ago a somewhat analogous circumstance occurred. When the votes of the several States were opened and read in the joint convention of the two houses, on the second Wednesday in February—the day fixed by the act of 1792-it appeared that the elector vote of Wisconsin was not given on the 34, but on the 4 h of December. Senator Mason, the presiding officer of the convention, unbeeding the informality, counted in gave rise to several very delicate and difficult questions which were not then, and have not since been, settled The functions of the electors coased, it was hald, on the 31 of Docember, and any other five men had as good a vote of Wiscousin. How was the legality of their action held hat his simple duty was to count the votes an the power of accepting or rejecting in his hands and in his alone. He would not entertain any motion on the part of a Senator or member in reference to the question nor would be entertain an appeal from his decision. In ger of such a precedent; in valu did Senators Toombs and Douglas, and Butler and Crittenden, protest sgainst the stances, and against the position taken by the presiding soon as the tellers had signed a cortificate of the count bodies wrangled for the remainder of the day over the various knotty points involved, without settling anything. Senator Toosabs is represented as having expressed his intention to dispute the constitutionality of the proceed-ing of counting the votes of the several States, omitting that of Georgia, on the ground that all the diates must participate, and that an election wherein all do not pur ticipate is null and void. Absurd and untonable as the propertion is, it is not at all improbable that ifr. Trombs may attempt to propound and support it.

It would regularly devolve on Vice President Breaking

on the second Widnesday in February; but owing to his dates, he will probably feel that it would be impro-per for him to preside, and the Secate will elect a Provident ero tem. The selection might be. but we hope will not be, made with a view of giving effect to the objection in the matter of Georgia's vote. No good can come of pressing such an objection. The form in which the result of the count will be announced will

pe no feilows:-After declaring the number of votes given for the four car mainer, the presiding efficer says.—

In further execution of the concurrent order of the two houses, the presiding efficer there declares that Abraham Lincoln, of the State of lilinois, having the greatest number of votes for President, that number being a majority of the whole number of hardway, has been duly elected President of the United States for the term prescribed by the constitution, Pocommence on the 4th of March, 1861. He also declares that Hamibal Hamin, of the State of Maine, having the greatest number of votes for Vice President, and that number being a majority of the whole number of electors, has been duly elected Vice President of the United State for the term prescribed by the constitution, to commence on the 4th day of March, 1861.

APPROPRIATION BILLS

There are a great many very important subjects a sett-ing action on the part of Congress; but with the overshadowing importance of this secession movement there is not the faintest prospect of anything size bring stiended to except it be the passage of the regular appropriation bills. It would not be ing if even three were neglected, either from design or otherwise. One party might interpose obstacles in the way of the passage of the appropriation administration; and even the republica might manifest an indisposition to press their passage for the take of giving Mr. Litcoln an excuse, outside of socca-sion troubles, for convening Congress in extra session. would be, therefore, by no means surprising if, on th 4th of March next, several of the regular samual approprintion bile remained unsated on. We have very little confidence in the petty politicisms who make no the pe-sonnel of both houses. The appropriation bills are for

the following purposes:-

For the expense of the invalid and platetal extenses.

For the cusular and diplomatic expenses.

For the expenses of the indian Repartment activity stiputations with the Lociana.

For the payment of invalid and other pensions.

For shorty civil expenses of the gararament.

For fertimations and other works of defences.

For the maintenance of light houses, &:

It would require at least a month to have these various bills acted on intelligently. There is we ? little prospect positions diesus tons.

The elecution of the tariff question and the arrange ment of new rates of contems occupied much time to the House or Representatives last seation. It was a Frent double measure, sithough the curious speciacie was predeaths measure, although the curron species was pre-sented of its being assailed and opposed by his political riceds, and advected and supported by his political encodes. The role upon its passage in the flours, taken on the 11th of May, showed 105 apen to 64 nees. It was discursed to a limited extent in the Sepate, and on the 18th of June its further consideration was postponed to the second Monday to December, by a vow of twenty five to twenty three. That role was afterwards on the 20th, reconsidered by a vote of thirty three to seventeen; but as the session lasted for only five days longer, and there was a great print of louders, to-further action was taken. It is not now asymptal order for the 10th of December, and it is not very likely that the question of the tariff will receive any computeration

THE PACIFIC BAILBOAN The refect committee of fiftees appointed by the House devoted a large part of the less sension to effect to mature a Partic Railroad bill, which might, if was called factory to all sections and intercats, at least array a mejority of both houses in its favor. In that, however, they were not successful. Mr. Outlis, of lows, chairman of the select committee, did report a bill and apple and and supported it in a focial speech, but he found it imconstitute to make the best so Telestiy into rated in the